HOW DO I FIND THE READINGS RECOMMENDED BY MY TEACHER?

READING A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND IDENTIFYING TYPES OF SOURCE MATERIALS

When your teacher gives you a reading list or course bibliography, the first thing to do is to identify the types of source it contains.

A course bibliography is a list of suggested sources (books, articles, images, etc.) for researching a topic. It is made up of bibliographical references detailing all the elements that describe a published item (author, title, publisher, year, url, etc.).

Knowing how to read a bibliography means understanding what types of source it contains so that you can search for them effectively. These might be print or digital items, whole books or chapters, multimedia resources, etc. You will need to search for different types of sources in different ways. This tutorial (FR) shows you how to interpret bibliographic references.

These tutorials will help you learn to search for the sources in a bibliography:

SEARCH THE CATALOGUE

A good place to start your search is the Sciences Po library catalogue.

You’ll find all the details about how to use it on the How to use the catalogue page.

SEARCH ONLINE RESOURCES

If you need to find online resources, go directly to the Electronic Resources page from the Search tab on the home page. You can start with a simple keyword search in the search box.
Under the Borrow tab on the home page, go to the Access to Electronic Resources page to find practical information about searching for electronic resources (authorised users, availability, gaining access, user charter, contact).

BORROWING

Once you’ve found the items you want, if they are not directly accessible online you will probably want to borrow them. To find out how, go to the How to use the catalogue page, under the Search tab on the top menu.

The Consultation/Loans page tells you which types of items are for onsite consultation only, how to borrow items from the closed stacks, and the conditions for borrowing CDs and DVDs.

CONTACT OUR LIBRARIANS

If you have any further questions or are unsure of something, feel free to ask a librarian for help. You can contact us by email or chat, under the Help tab on the home page.